

Efforts to bring superior education to all of West Virginia and America are among our top priorities. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Conner Street Elementary.

AMEND TITLE 49 OF THE UNITED STATES CODE SO AIRPORT SCREENING PERSONNEL CAN BE U.S. CITIZENS OR NATIONALS

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to amend Title 49 of the United States Code so that the airport security screening personnel referred to in Section 44935 of that Title can be U.S. citizens or nationals.

American Samoa is the only place in the United States in which persons born of non-U.S. citizen parents acquire the political status of U.S. national, as opposed to that of U.S. citizen. According to the most recent data available, only 5.7 percent of American Samoa's population are U.S. citizens, with the vast majority being U.S. nationals.

Enactment of the Aviation and Transportation Security Act into law last month added a requirement that all security screening personnel at airports be U.S. citizens. While I understand and strongly support Congressional intent to improve the quality of the security screening of baggage being put aboard commercial aircraft, I do believe the issue of U.S. nationals should be considered as part of the recent change.

The U.S. nationals from American Samoa have a 100-year history of service to the United States. Just like citizens, these Americans owe their allegiance to the United States and have repeatedly demonstrated their allegiance in important ways. They are not foreign nationals, yet because of this one criterion placed on the hiring of security screening personnel, they will be treated as foreigners if this new requirement added in the Aviation and Transportation Security Act is not amended.

With such a small number of U.S. citizens available in the American Samoa work force, the requirement in the Aviation and Transportation Security Act that security screening personnel be U.S. citizens also greatly reduces the pool of prospective employees. As a practical matter, this will be to the detriment of airline security on all flights within the region, thereby reducing, rather than increasing, security of the traveling public.

Mr. Speaker, I see this amendment as a technical change to the law, and look forward to prompt passage so that security at the airport in American Samoa will remain strong.

HOMELESS VETERANS COMPREHENSIVE ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2716, the

Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act. Homelessness remains a prevalent problem among veterans, with roughly one-third of the total homeless population consisting of veterans. With this legislation, we will take a needed step in addressing this problem as we are all aware that more needs to be done to help these men and women get back on their feet.

It is a familiar principle among veterans in our Armed Forces that we do not leave our wounded behind. Homeless veterans are our wounded, and we are leaving them behind. The VA has reported there were about 345,000 homeless vets in our country in 1999, and there will yet be even more homeless veterans as we experience this economic downturn.

This bill sets a national goal to end homelessness among veterans within 10 years. Who is opposed to that? The bill provides funding, authorizes 2000 additional Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 8 low-income housing vouchers over four years for homeless veterans in need of permanent housing and who are enrolled in health care provided by the Veterans Affairs Department. The bill contains funding increases for a number of existing veterans homeless programs. It will establish a demonstration program to provide information, including referral and counseling services, to incarcerated veterans and veterans in long-term institutional confinement to assist in their reintegration into their communities.

As we continue to address the needs of our Nation's veterans we should heed the words of President Lincoln who called on all Americans "to care for him who shall have borne the battle." I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

**TRIBUTE TO CONFIDENCE
ELEMENTARY**

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mrs. CAPITO. Mrs. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Confidence Elementary in recognition of their achievement as an "exemplary" school.

Confidence Elementary has been selected as one of the top 50 schools of West Virginia. "Exemplary" status is based on Stanford Achievement Test results, attendance, drop out rates, and writing exam scores.

I commend the leadership and faculty on their dedication to the children that walk through their doors each day. They have set an incredible example for the other 817 schools in West Virginia.

I equally commend the students and parents of Confidence Elementary for their commitment to a quality education and a bright future.

Efforts to bring superior education to all of West Virginia and America are among our top priorities. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Confidence Elementary.

**BILL OF RIGHTS CANNOT BE THE
NEXT VICTIM OF TERRORISM**

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the terrorist attacks on September 11 struck fear in the heart of every American. Today, we continue to fight a war against terrorism on two fronts—in the mountains of Afghanistan and on the main streets of the United States. The first is a more traditional war against soldiers and war machinery; the second, a war against domestic terrorism.

Within days of the attacks, Congress passed a Homeland Security Bill that included the so-called "Patriot Act." The Patriot Act allows the government to increase its use of wiretaps and surveillance, and enhances its ability to trace e-mail and Internet usage. I voted against the Patriot Act because it intrudes unnecessarily on our civil liberties. We had adequate police and intelligence systems available to prevent 9/11, but they were not used effectively. The inadequate use of these resources is no reason to trample our freedoms.

The Bill of Rights, civil rights and civil liberties must not be the "other victim" of terrorism. As the domestic war against terrorism continues, my concern is that "increased police power" will encroach on our liberties.

In the past month, Attorney General John Ashcroft issued rules to allow the FBI to eavesdrop on communications between attorneys and their clients who are suspected terrorists, ordered prosecutors to interview over 5,000 young, mostly Middle Eastern men in the United States, and supported a system of secret military tribunals that could be used to try alleged accomplices in the September 11 attacks.

Members of Congress and eight former high-ranking FBI officials have questioned the effectiveness of Attorney General Ashcroft's plan to fight terrorism. The tactics that he is proposing are not new. By interviewing over 5,000 mostly Middle Eastern men to gather information about terrorists, he is merely recycling the same "preventive" intelligence-gathering techniques that were rejected in the late 1970s because they did not prevent terrorism and in fact, led to abuses of civil liberties.

In the 1950's and 1960's, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover used "Red Squads" to collect massive amounts of "preventive" intelligence to deter terrorist attacks. The "Squads" were criticized for abusing civil liberties and they were seldom effective. Because the majority of preventive intelligence investigations did not lead to criminal cases, most terrorist activities went unsolved and most of the terrorists were not apprehended. There is no reason to return to a system that didn't work and has a track record of failure and abuse.

Attorney General Ashcroft wants terrorist suspects to be tried by secret military tribunals. Conducting the tribunals in secret with the possibility of imposing capital punishment by a mere two-thirds vote, is an infringement of our civil liberties. It also undermines our system of checks and balances. Our Democracy retains its integrity in large part because no single branch of government overwhelms another. The military tribunals circumvent the

role of oversight control granted to Congress in the Constitution, and allow too much power to the Executive branch.

The strength of the United States does not rest entirely on our overwhelming military superiority. Our country's strength lies in its moral authority, its reliance on the rule of law, and its belief in democracy. The ideals stated in our Constitution and Bill of Rights resonate throughout the world. It is our strength as a just, fair and transparent society that has made us a superpower, and these are the ideals that will ensure our world preeminence in the future.

Just as we cannot win the battle against terrorism in Afghanistan with purely military options, we cannot improve homeland security by infringing on our freedoms. The Bill of Rights cannot be the next victim of terrorism. We will eventually win the military intervention against terrorism, but we cannot lose our national character in the meantime. Fear should not guide our decisions or cloud our judgment. Fear must not muffle the voice of freedom.

THIS WEEK WE COMMEMORATE
HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, this week, we commemorate Human Rights Week. On December 10, 1945, haunted by the cruelties uncovered throughout the Second World War, a group of U.N. delegates, including first lady Eleanor Roosevelt, joined together in San Francisco to write what has become the internationally recognized standard for the protection of human rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The opening paragraph of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights refers to the "inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world." These words are a reminder to us all that when one people suffer, we all suffer. When one group is oppressed, it erodes the fabric of humanity and, thus, endangers the freedom and liberty of all. These words are a call for vigilance and action.

The struggle for the protection of universal freedoms has always been an arduous one and this year has presented new challenges and hardships, but also opportunities, for those of us in the human rights community, which have only served to strengthen our resolve.

A truly disappointing turn of events was the exclusion of the United States from the United Nations Commission on Human Rights aggravated by the participation of such abominable human rights violators as China, Sudan, Libya, Cuba, and Vietnam. This increased concerns that the continual imprisonment of human rights defenders would go unnoticed despite international pressure for their release.

In the aftermath of the September 11th attacks, as the U.S.'s values of liberty and democracy came under attack, the world once again recognized the need to focus on the plight of oppressed people everywhere. It is my hope that we are ushering in a new era in the human rights struggle marked by a renewed commitment and understanding.

Noting the overwhelming support given to the Afghan people in their battle to free themselves from the shackles the Taliban imposed on them, I am filled with hope and optimism about the future.

As a refugee from an oppressive regime, the struggle for freedom is central to my commitment to human rights. I stand today during Human Rights Week, in admiration and gratitude of those who have perished and currently languish in suffering because they choose to fight for the values of freedom and democracy in their own country. Today we honor them. For them we celebrate Human Rights Week.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF DENIS P. GALVIN TO OUR
NATIONAL PARKS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the end of a 38-year career in government service for National Park Service Deputy Director Denis Galvin.

For many people, both within and outside of the National Park Service (NPS), Denny is "Mr. Park Service." The breadth and scope of his knowledge of national park issues is tremendous as evidenced by the wide range of NPS leadership positions with which Denny has been entrusted. Beginning as a civil engineer at Sequoia National Park in 1963, Denny rose through the ranks of the National Park Service to hold such positions as Deputy Regional Director, Manager of the Denver Service Center, and Associate Director for Planning and Development. At two different points in his career, Denny has served as Deputy Director of the National Park Service and on a number of occasions he has been the Acting NPS Director.

Denis is well known as a strong advocate for the National Park Service, defending both NPS employees and the work of the agency itself. It is heartening to see a civil servant who has exhibited such a love for his work and for the agency for which he works.

The National Park Service administers many of our Nation's greatest natural and historical resources. We in West Virginia are blessed to have some of these resources within our borders and I am proud of the work of the National Park Service in preserving and interpreting these resources for the benefit of present and future generations. This work is made possible because of the efforts of people like Denis Galvin.

On Thursday, December 13, 2001 Denny is being honored by his friends and colleagues at a retirement dinner. I join Denny's many friends and colleagues in saluting him for all his efforts on behalf of the National Park System and wish Denny and his family the best in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO EVANS ELEMENTARY

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Evans Elementary in recognition of their achievement as an "exemplary" school.

Evans Elementary has been selected as one of the top 50 schools of West Virginia. "Exemplary" status is based on Stanford Achievement Test results, attendance, drop out rates, and writing exam scores.

I commend the leadership and faculty on their dedication to the children that walk through their doors each day. They have set an incredible example for the other 817 schools in West Virginia.

I equally commend the students and parents of Evans Elementary for their commitment to a quality education and a bright future.

Efforts to bring superior education to all of West Virginia and America are among our top priorities. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Evans Elementary.

INTRODUCTION OF MILITARY
TRIBUNALS LEGISLATION

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, Today my colleague Zoe Lofgren and I are introducing legislation to authorize the President to use military tribunals to try foreign terrorists captured abroad.

Today's Washington Post details the likelihood that up to 10,000 Taliban fighters and others could be detained in Afghanistan as a conclusion to the military campaign there. The Administration's intention is to interview those who could provide information, and to prosecute the senior leadership—possibly by using several military tribunals set up pursuant to the President's November 13 military order.

This is a good strategy, and I support it.

But to execute that strategy consistent with Constitutional requirements, the use of those tribunals needs specific authorization from Congress.

Our bill provides that authorization and, we believe, important limitations on the use of military tribunals consistent with the Administration's intent.

We hope the Administration will embrace our concepts, and that members of Congress on a bipartisan basis will join us. As attorneys, we believe our bill represents mainstream legal doctrine.

First, we authorize military tribunals to try foreign nationals in venues like military bases or aircraft carriers outside the United States. Our federal courts and courts martial operated pursuant to the Uniform Code of Military Justice are capable of trying U.S. citizens, legal residents, and others within the United States. In this regard, we applaud yesterday's news that Zacarias Moussaoui has been indicted and will be tried in Federal Court on conspiracy charges.

Second, our bill ties those who are tried by military tribunals to actions specifically enumerated by Congress in the Joint Resolution